(d) The Government is aware of the developments regarding procurement of Defence items by our neighbouring countries. The situation is constantly assessed and appropriate steps are taken to ensure full defence preparedness.

Marketing of weapons by Ordnance factories

2574. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Ordnance Factories Organisation proposes to sell non-prohibited weapons like revolvers and pistols in open market, If so the details of the policy in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Defence Ministry has decided to market its products in the open to curb the astronomical prices of the imported weapons, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our weapons match the quality and price of imported ones such as Webley Scott and Colt, if so, whether Government are also contemplating to export such weapons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Non-prohibited bore weapons, namely 0.315 sporting rifle and 12 bore double barrel breach loading (DBBL) gun have been sold in the open market for long. These are marketed through authorised dealers. 0.32 revolver is not yet being sold in the open market to its limited production; this weapon is provided to certain specified categories of persons in need of security.

(c) and (d) The weapons produced by ordnance factories are of assured quality. Export of these weapons has not been made so far.

Protection of coastal belt

2575. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved for protection of the coastal belt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Saurashtra and Kutch and other areas of the coastal belt in Gujarat have been given any special protection status in this regard;

(d) whether instances of infiltration of terrorists in that State have been reported this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) There is no change in the existing practice of patrolling of the coastal belt.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No instances of infiltration of terrorists in the State have come to the notice of Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

(e) Does not arise.

Decline in strength of army

2576. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has lost its position as the third largest army whereas Pakistan has considerably increased its armed manpower during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to keep a balance in the armed manpower strength to meet any eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) According to information available, there has been only a marginal accration to the stength of the Pakistani Army in the last five years. All developments impinging on our National Security are closely monitored by the Government for initiating appropriate and timely measures.

रूस से खरीदा गया सैनिक साज-सामान

2577. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत द्वारा रूस से खरीदे जा रहे सैनिक साज-सामान का ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ख) रक्षा सचिव की इस संबंध में रूस यात्रा का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) इस सूचना को प्रकट करना लोकहित में नहीं होगा ।

(ख) रक्षा सचिव की 30 अक्तूबर से 05 नवम्बर 1994 तक की रूसी यात्रा के दौरान रूस के साथ रक्षा तकनीकी सहयोग संबंधी महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों, और हिस्से-पुर्जों की कतिपय मदों की आपूर्ति से संबंधित समस्याओं पर चर्चा की गई थी । कुछ शस्त्र प्रणालियों की आपूर्ति के बारे में भी प्रारंभिक बातचीत की गई थी ।

Scientists of SSPL, Delhi

2578. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently awarded 'cost and back wages' to a scientist of Solid State Physics Laboratory, Delhi and has also made observations against Government;

(b) if so, whether the exact amount of loss to Government on this account has been calculate d;and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover this loss from the persons whose actions resulted in the Supreme Court allowing each a criminal petition alongwith the service matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Supreme Court has recently awarded cost and only 1/3rd of the backwages to a Scientific Officer who had been dismissed from service consequent to a Departmental enquiry, as the court observed certain procedural infirmity in conduct of the enquiry and dismissal of the officer.

(b) As awarded by the Court, the payment to be made to the appellant works out to be Rs. 5,000 as the cost and Rs. 3,16,095 as 1/3rd of the backwages. As per Govt. rules, such payments on account of award by the court are not treated as loss.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Rental compensation for occupation of Gigrial

2579. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether rental compensation in respect of land under the occupation of the army in Village Gigrial, Akhnoor district, Jammu has not been paid for 1993-94 so far despite the fact that the Union Government have already released the amount for purpose;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to ensure the immediate payment of the rental compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The rental compensation for 1993-94 for the total requisitioned area of 106 375 acres of land in village Gigrial, Tehsil Akhnoor in Jammu District has been released by the Defence Estates authorities to the Deputy Commissioner concerned. The disbursement of rental compensation is made by the Deptuy Commissioner.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restructuring of DRDO

2580. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently approved the restructuring of the Defence Research and Development Organisation: and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to take effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) There has been no restructuring of Defence Research & Development Organisaton. However, for better career propects of non-gazetted scientific and technical staff of DRDO, Government have recently approved restructuring of Gp 'B' and Gp 'C' scientific and technical cadre with a provision of induction from Gp 'D' employees and creation of a newly organised service Defence Research and Technical Service (DRTS).